THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen" (REV. 7: 12).

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LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

DRAFT OF THE CONSTITUTION, AS PRESENTED TO THE PEACE CONGRESS, FEBRUARY 14TH, 1919.

PREAMBLE.

IN order to promote international co-operation and to secure international peace and security by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war by the prescription of open, just, and honorable relations between nations, by the firm establishment of the understandings of international law as the actual rule of conduct among Governments, and by the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations in the dealings of organized peoples with one another, the Powers signatory to this covenant adopt this constitution of the League of Nations.

MEETINGS.

Article I.—The action of the high contracting parties under the terms of this covenant should be effected through the instrumentality of meetings of a body of delegates representing the high contracting parties, of meetings at more frequent intervals, of an Executive Council, and of a permanent international secretariat to be established at the seat of the League.

ONE VOTE FOR EACH STATE.

Article II.—Meetings of the body of delegates should be held at stated intervals, and from time to time as occasion may require, for the purpose of dealing with matters within the sphere of action of the League. Meetings of the body of delegates shall be held at the seat of the League, or at such other places as may be found convenient, and shall consist of representatives of the high contracting parties. Each of the high contracting parties shall have one vote, but may have not more than three representatives.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Article III. The Executive Council shall consist of representatives of the United States of America, the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan, members of the League. The selection of those five States, together with representatives of four other States, shall be made by the body of delegates on such principles and in such manner as they think fit. Pending the appointment of these representatives, the other States shall be members of the Executive Council. Meetings of the Council shall be held from time to time, as occasion may require, and at least once a year, at whatever place may be decided on, or, failing any such decision, at the seat of the League; and any matter within the sphere of action of the League, or affecting the peace of the world, may be dealt with at such meetings. Invitations shall be sent to any Power to attend a meeting of the Council at which matters directly affecting its interests are to be discussed, and no decision taken at any meeting will be binding on such Power unless so invited.

MR. WILSON TO SUMMON FIRST MEETING.

Article IV.—All matters of procedure at meetings of the body of delegates, or the Executive Council, including the appointment of committees to investigate particular matters, shall be regulated by the body of delegates or the Executive Council, and be decided by a majority of the States represented at the meeting. The first meeting of the body of delegates and of the Executive Council shall be summoned by the President of the United States of America.

THE SECRETARIAT.

Article V.—The permanent secretariat of the League shall be established at what shall constitute the seat of the League. The secretariat shall comprise such secretaries and staff as may be required under the general direction and control of a Secretary-General of the League, who shall be chosen by the Executive Council. The secretariat shall be appointed by the Secretary-General subject to confirmation by the Executive Council. The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the body of delegates or of the Executive Council. The expenses of the secretariat shall be borne by the States members of the League, in accordance with the apportionment of the expenses of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES.

Article VI.—Representatives of the high contracting parties and officials of the League, when engaged on the business of the League, shall enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities and the buildings occupied by the League or its officials or by representatives attending its meetings shall enjoy the benefits of extra territoriality.

ADMISSION GUARANTEES.

Article VII.—Admission to the League of States not signatories to the covenant, and not named in the protocol hereto as States to be invited to adhere to the covenant, requires the assent of not less than two-thirds of the States represented in the body of delegates, and shall be limited to fully self-governing countries, including dominions and colonies. No State shall be admitted to the League unless it is able to give effective guarantees of its sincere intention to observe its international obligations, and unless it shall conform to such principles as may be prescribed by the League in regard to its naval and military forces and armaments.

REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS TO LOWEST POINT.

Article VIII.—The high contracting parties recognise the principle that the maintenance of peace will require the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety, and the enforcement by common action of international obligations, having special regard to the geographical situation and circumstances of each State, and the Executive Council shall formulate plans effecting such reductions. The Executive Council shall also determine for the consideration and action of the several Governments what military equipment and armament is fair and reasonable in proportion to the scale of forces laid down in the programme of disarmament, and these limits, when adopted, shall not be exceeded without the permission of the Executive Council. The high contracting parties agree that the manufacture by private enterprise of munitions and implements of war lends itself to grave objections, and direct the Executive Council to advise how the evil effects attendant upon such manufacture can be prevented, due regard being paid to the necessities of those countries which are not able to manufacture for themselves the munitions and implements of war necessary for their safety. The high contracting parties undertake in no way to conceal from each other the conditions of such of their industries as are capable of being adapted to warlike purposes, or the scale of their armaments, and agree that there shall be full and frank interchange of information as to their military and naval programmes.

MILITARY AND NAVAL QUESTIONS.

Article IX.—A permanent commission shall be constituted to advise the League on the execution of the provisions of Article VIII., and on military and naval questions generally.

TO RESPECT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

Article X.—The high contracting parties undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all States members

of the League. In case of any such aggression, or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the Executive Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled.

WARS AND THREATS OF WAR.

Article XI. Any war, or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the high contracting parties or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the League, and the high contracting parties reserve the right to take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of the nations. It is hereby also declared and agreed to be the friendly right of each of the high contracting parties to draw the attention of the body of delegates or of the Executive Council to any circumstances affecting international intercourse which threaten to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends.

SAFEGUARD AGAINST SUDDEN WAR.

Article XII.—The high contracting parties agree that, should disputes arise between them which cannot be adjusted by the ordinary processes of diplomacy, they will in no case resort to war without previously submitting the questions and matters involved either to the arbitration or to inquiry by the Executive Council, and until three months after the award by the arbitrators or a recommendation by the Executive Council, and that they will not even then resort to war against a member of the League which complies with the award of the arbitrators or the recommendation of the Executive Council. In any case under this article, the award of the arbitrators shall be made within a reasonable time, and the recommendation of the Executive Council shall be made within six months after the submission of the dispute.

LEAGUE FINDING TO BE BINDING.

Article XIII.—The high contracting parties agree that whenever any dispute or difficulty shall arise between them which they recognise to be suitable for submission to arbitration, and which cannot be satisfactorily settled by diplomacy, they will submit the whole subject matter to arbitration. For this purpose, the Court of Arbitration to which the case is referred shall be the court agreed on by the parties or stipulated in any convention existing between them. The high contracting parties agree that they will carry out in full good faith any award that may be rendered. In the event of any failure to carry out the award, the Executive Council shall propose what steps can best be taken to give effect thereto.

COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

Article XIV.—The Executive Council shall formulate plans for

the establishment of a Permanent Court of International Justice. This court shall, when established, be competent to hear and determine any matter which the parties recognise as suitable for submission to it for arbitration under the foregoing article.

PUBLICATION OF DISPUTES.

Article XV.—If there should arise between States, members of the League, any dispute likely to lead to a rupture which is not submitted to arbitration as above, the high contracting parties agree that they will refer the matter to the Executive Council. Either party to the dispute may give notice of the existence of the dispute to the Secretary-General, who will make all necessary arrangements for a full investigation and consideration thereof. For this purpose the parties agree to communicate to the Secretary-General as promptly as possible statements of their case with all the relevant facts and papers, and the Executive Council may forthwith direct the publication thereof. Where the efforts of the Council lead to the settlement of the dispute, a statement shall be published indicating the nature of the dispute and the terms of settlement together with such explanations as may be appropriate. If the dispute has not been settled a report by the Council shall be published setting forth, with all necessary facts and explanations, the recommendations which the Council think just and proper for the settlement of the dispute. If the report is unanimously agreed to by the members of the Council other than the parties to the dispute, the high contracting parties agree that they will not go to war with any party which complies with the recommendation, and that if any party shall refuse so to comply, the Council shall propose the measures necessary to give effect to the recommendations. If no such unanimous report can be made, it shall be the duty of the majority and the privilege of the minority to issue statements indicating what they believe to be the facts, and containing the recommendations which they consider to be just and proper. The Executive Council may, in any case, under this article refer the dispute to the body of delegates. The dispute shall be so referred at the request of either party to the dispute provided that such request must be made within fourteen days after the submission of the dispute. In any case referred to the body of delegates, all the provisions of this article and of Article XII. relating to the action and powers of the Executive Council shall apply to the action and powers of the body of delegates.

THE LEAGUE'S WEAPONS.

Article XVI.—Should any of the high contracting parties break or disregard its covenants under Article XII., it shall thereby, *ipso facto*, be deemed to have committed an act of war against all the other members of the League, which hereby undertake immediately to subject it to the severance of all trade or financial

relations, the prohibition of all intercourse between their nationals and the nationals of the covenant-breaking State, and the prevention of all financial, commercial, or personal intercourse between the nationals of the covenant-breaking State and the nationals of any other State, whether a member of the League or not. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council in such case to recommend what effective military or naval force the members of the League shall severally contribute to the armed forces to be used to protect the covenants of the League. The high contracting parties agree, further, that they will mutually support one another in the financial and economic measures which are taken under this article in order to minimise the loss and inconvenience resulting from the above measures, and that they will mutually support one another in resisting any special measures aimed at one of their number by the covenant-breaking State, and that they will afford passage through their territory to the forces of any of the high contracting parties who are co-operating to protect the covenants of the League.

IN CASE OF DISPUTE.

Article XVII.—In the event of disputes between one State a member of the League and another State which is not a member of the League, or between States not members of the League, the high contracting parties agree that the State or States not members of the League shall be invited to accept the obligation of membership in the League for the purposes of such dispute, upon such conditions as the Executive Council may deem just, and upon acceptance of any such invitation the above provisions shall be applied with such modification as may be deemed necessary by the League. Upon such invitation being given, the Executive Council shall immediately institute an inquiry into the circumstances and merits of the dispute, and recommend such action as may seem best and most effectual in the circumstances. In the event of a Power so invited refusing to accept the obligations of membership in the League for the purpose of such dispute, and taking any action against a State member of the League which in the case of a State member of the League would constitute a breach of Article XII., the provisions of Article XVI. shall be applicable as against the State taking such action. If both parties to the dispute, when so invited, refuse to accept the obligations of membership in the League for the purposes of such dispute, the Executive Council may take such action and make such recommendations as will prevent hostilities and will result in the settlement of the dispute.

CONTROL OF ARMS.

Article XVIII.—The high contracting parties agree that the League shall be entrusted with the general supervision of the trade in arms and ammunition with the countries in which the control of this traffic is necessary in the common interests.

HELP FOR NEW STATES.

Article XIX.—To those colonies and territories which as a consequence of the late war have ceased to be under the sovereignty of the States which formerly governed them, and which are inhabited by peoples not yet able to stand by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world, there should be applied the principle that the well-being and development of such peoples form a sacred trust of civilisation, and that securities for the performance of this trust should be embodied in the constitution of the League. The best method of giving practical effect to this principle is that the tutelage of such peoples should be entrusted to advanced nations, who, by reason of their resources, their experience, or their geographical position, can best undertake the responsibility, and that this privilege should be exercised by them as mandatories on behalf of the League.

The character of the mandate must differ according to the stage of the development of the people, the geographical situation of the territory, its economic conditions, and other similar circumstances. Certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognised, subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a mandatory power until such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the mandatory power.

Other peoples, especially those of Central Africa, are at such a stage that the mandatory must be responsible for the administration of the territory subject to conditions which will guarantee freedom of conscience or religion, subject only to the maintenance of public order and morals, the prohibition of abuse, such as the slave trade, the arms traffic, and the liquor traffic, and the prevention of the establishment of fortifications or military and naval bases, and of military training of the natives for other than police purposes and the defence of the territory, and will also secure equal opportunities for the trade and commerce of other members of the League.

There are territories, such as South West-Africa and certain of the South Pacific Islands, which, owing to the sparseness of their population, or their small size, or their remoteness from the centres of civilisation, or their geographical contiguity to the mandatory State and other circumstances, can be best administered under the laws of the mandatory State as integral portions thereof, subject to the safeguards above mentioned in the interests of the indigenous population.

In every case of mandate the mandatory State shall render to the League an annual report in reference to the territory committed to its charge. The degree of authority, control, or administration

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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1919.

EDITORIAL.

CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD LEAGUE.

WE publish, this week, in full, the draft of the constitution of the proposed League of Nations, as presented to the Peace Conference in Paris. It is, without question, the most important document given to the world in recent years. No student of the Scriptures, who believes in the prophetic word, can afford to be ignorant of its contents, or indifferent to its significance.

The constitution, as drafted, provides for four instruments of international government, for the definition and maintenance of the rights and interests of the nations composing the League, as far as concerns their relations to one another. These are:

1. A representative assembly, to be known as the Body of Delegates. This assembly will consist of members elected by the various nations. It will convene whenever necessary, and each nation represented will have but one vote in its decisions, though some of them may have several delegates. This may be called a world parliament.

2. An Executive Council, consisting of representatives of nine nations, elected by the Body of Delegates. The Council is to meet at least once a year. It will be the executive body of the League.

3. A Secretary-General, with the necessary staffs and departments. These are to be appointed by the Executive Council, and may be compared to the cabinets of constitutional monarchies.

4. A Court of International Justice, to hear and decide all questions concerning international relations, brought before it. This court, when established, may be regarded as the Supreme Court of the World.

The Secretariat will be permanently established at a place selected by the representatives of the League, and this place may be said to be its capital—the Capital of the World, in fact.

The constitution, as drafted, proposes the reduction of armaments and the protection of the nations of the League against war, by arbitration. It provides that any country that fails to carry out the decisions of the League, will be isolated from the rest of the world in every respect—politically, industrially, commercially, and socially—and that, if necessary, force will be used, to compel submission.

It, further, provides that the conditions of labor and laborers shall be considered by the government of the League, with a view to the improvement of those conditions, all over the world.

The constitution, as drafted, will be presented to the various governments for ratification, and some changes may be made in the text before it receives the signatures, but the principles embodied will be retained.

It appears that some opposition has already developed. French critics fear that the proposed agreement does not provide adequate guarantee for the safety of France against German future agression. They would feel safer, if the League had at its command an international army with headquarters in Europe, prepared to take the field at the first sign of a hostile movement by Germany.

But this criticism does not seem to have very much force. The probability is that the present generation of Germans—or a majority, at least—have had all the wars they will ever want. And it is safe to say that when this generation has passed away to the great beyond, war will not be popular in any civilized country.

More serious, perhaps, is the opposition that is said to have developed in the United States, where party politics often dominate public thought. Still, we can hardly believe that President Wilson will meet with serious difficulties at home on this question. If it is true that some leading Democrats oppose his peace policy, it is equally true that he has on his side a number of prominent Republicans, among whom may be mentioned ex-President Taft and Senator Elihu Root.

It is probable, however, that the plan will not be carried through without some opposition in all countries. In all parts of the world, there are men and women who profit by military establishments, and they are going to fight for their profit, as valiantly as did the silversmiths at Ephesus, when the gospel was first preached in that city.

Then, there are sentimental persons of both sexes, who think of war only from the romantic side, and who see in a soldier only one of the ideal musketeers of Alexander Dumas, with waving plumes, arrayed in silk and velvet, and not the khaki-covered, mud-stained "old Billy" looking for "a better 'ole." They dream of war heroes, as a young girl vainly dotes on her prince, or a green youth on his ethereal princess. These oppose peace, because they have never given the realities of war a serious thought. Perhaps they have seen war at some hospital for convalescent soldiers, but they have certainly not been any nearer to the front line.

There are others who extol war from what they conceive to be a religious point of view. They regard the battlefield as about the only deathbed worthy of a Christian. Not long ago, one of these misguided philosophers gave vent to the following:

"I believe, and my belief is shared by hundreds of soldiers in the trenches, where I have been, unlike many of my criticizers, and by hundreds of soldiers now returned disabled and discharged, among whom I have made an exhaustive study of the subject, that the man who, fighting, offers his life for his church, his

home, his country, his people, his civilization, dies in the full assurance of salvation. It may be that he passes over with a curse or a word of swearing on his lips; that may well be—circumstances such as we have them demand it. War is a hell of destruction, devastation, damnation all around are these evidences of frightfulness; the soldier is only human, he swears, he uses language which is not that of the church parlor, yet the soldier who understands and, understanding, dies, is saved."

And this, he said, was the universal belief of the soldiers.

Whether the gentleman quoted went so far as to suppose that *all* soldiers dying in the service, were saved, including those of the other side, after they had, let us say, violated all rules of civilized warfare and steeped their hands in the blood of innocent babes and helpless women, is not stated, but this inference needs only to be hinted at, to make clear the absurdity of his position. But, as just stated, efforts are being made to extol the fields of carnage as the very entrance to heaven.

The Old Testament is being ransacked for passages to inflame the passions of mankind, and clergymen are endeavoring to find, in the teachings of the Prince of Peace, arguments in favor of militarism.

We must not be surprised, therefore, if the plan now formulated for the creation of a brotherhood of nations should meet with opposition, especially from the classes that profit by militarism. We believe, however, that the plan will be adopted in its main features, notwithstanding the attempts that may be made to strangle the newborn babe. By all means, let the League be established. It will grow and develop, and will, very soon, be able to take care of itself.

When this war first began, the bitter thought filled many a heart, that there was no God who was concerned about the fate of the children of men. It seemed to many as if the awful sufferings on the battlefields furnished proof of the belief that the idea of a Godhead was mere delusion.

But it is different now. Through this war, three empires—all oppressors of men and morally rotten to the core—have been swept away. Militarism lies prostrate in the dust, as the Philistian idol Dagon before the ark of God. Nations held in chains for centuries have been set free and are rejoicing in the new day that is dawning over them in glory. On the ruins of the old world the foundation of a new structure has already been laid, upon the portals of which, when completed, the inscription in letters of blazing glory will be read: "The Brotherhood of Man."

The war itself was an evil. It was the work of Satan through his human instruments. But it has turned out, as will be more apparent as the years roll by, to be one of the greatest blessings. To whom is this due? To short-sighted, weak, and impatient man? No, indeed. It is due to God, our almighty and all-wise Father. If there had been no God to interfere, the war would

have been only a curse, a tragedy, ending without a ray of hope. But because there is a God, and because He lives and governs the affairs of men in love and mercy, therefore the tragedy ends in the triumphant Song of the Redeemed.

God has meted out justice. He has brought down the mighty and exalted the lowly. He has prepared the way for the redemption of His people, and He is still making preparations for the coming of His Son in power and glory.

This is the lesson of the efforts that are being made for the creation of League of Nations, as a grand *finale* of the greatest and most sanguinary of all wars.

J. M. S.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(*Concluded from page 135*).

to be exercised by the mandatory State shall, if not previously agree upon by the high contracting parties, in each case be explicitly defined by the Executive Council in a special Act or charter. The high contracting parties further agree to establish at the seat of the League a Mandatory Commission to receive and examine the annual reports of the mandatory Powers, and to assist the League in ensuring the observance of the terms of all mandates.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR.

Article XX.—The high contracting parties will endeavour to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labor for men, women, and children, both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend, and to that end agree to establish as part of the organization of the League a Permanent Bureau of Labour.

FREEDOM OF TRANSIT.

Article XXI.—The high contracting parties agree that provision shall be made through the instrumentality of the League to secure and maintain freedom of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce of all States members of the League, having in mind, among other things, special arrangements with regard to the necessities of the regions devastated during the war of 1914-1918.

INTERNATIONAL BUREAUX.

Article XXII.—The high contracting parties agree to place under the control of the League all international bureaux already established by general treaties if the parties to such treaties consent. Furthermore, they agree that all such international bureaux to be constituted in future shall be placed under the control of the League.

REGISTRATION OF TREATIES.

Article XXIII.—The high contracting parties agree that every treaty or international engagement entered into hereafter by any State a member of the League shall be forthwith registered by the Secretary-General, and as soon as possible published by him, and that no such treaty or international engagement shall be binding until so registered.

OUT-OF-DATE TREATIES.

Article XXIV.—It shall be the right of the body of delegates from time to time to advise the reconsideration by States members of the League of treaties which have become inapplicable, and of international conditions of which the continuance may endanger the peace of the world.

CLASHING OBLIGATIONS TO BE RENOUNCED.

Article XXV.—The high contracting parties severally agree that the present covenant is accepted as abrogating all obligations *inter se* which are inconsistent with the terms thereof, and solemnly engage that they will not hereafter enter into any engagements inconsistent with the terms thereof. In case any of the Powers signatory hereto, or subsequently admitted to the League, shall, before becoming a party to this covenant, have undertaken any obligations which are inconsistent with the terms of this covenant, it shall be the duty of such Power to take immediate steps to procure its release from such obligations.

AMENDMENTS.

Article XXVI.—Amendments to this covenant will take effect when ratified by the States whose representatives compose the Executive Council, and by three-fourths of the States whose representatives comprise the body of the delegates.

WHEAT AND WEEDS.

By Dr. James E. Talmage, of the Council of the Twelve of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat" (Matt. 13: 24-25).

So hath it been from the beginning; so will it be until the end.

The Lord God gave commandment unto Adam, and straightway Satan countered with sophistry and falsehood disguised as half the truth. Adam preached the gospel and administered its essential ordinances amongst his posterity: "And Satan came among them, saying: I am also a son of God; and he commanded

them, saying: Believe it not: and they believed it not, and they loved Satan more than God. And men began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual, and devilish" (Pearl of Great Price, p. 21).

Thus, even during the lifetime of the first patriarch, many of his descendants fell into apostasy and denied the God with whom their great progenitor had talked face to face.

From Adam to Noah righteous men taught and testified of the truth, denounced sin and warned sinners: yet all the while Satan sowed assiduously the tares of wickedness in the hearts of men, and with such evil success that, excepting Noah and his household, the whole human family became corrupt. So awful was the condition that the floods came and swept the ungodly race from the earth: and their rebellious spirits passed into the state of duress, in which they remained until the way of repentance was opened to them anew by the ministry of the disembodied Christ over twenty-three centuries later. See I. Peter 3: 18-20.

As the children of men multiplied and nations developed after the Deluge, the wholesome plants of Divine truth struggled against the rank growth of error: therefore the Lord commanded Abraham to leave his idolatrous country and kindred, that through him and his posterity the saving powers of the Priesthood might be preserved among men. The tares of idolatry and its inseparable abominations grew apace. Even the harrowing experiences of Egyptian bondage failed to extirpate the weeds from Israel, though the fertilizing effect of humility under suffering did much to nurture and sustain the precious grain of the covenant.

At the time of the Exodus the Israelites constituted the few whom the Lord could call His own: and they had to undergo a disciplinary probation—a course of intensive and purifying cultivation, covering four decades in the wilderness—before they were deemed fit to enter the land of their inheritance. They were distinguished as Jehovah-worshipers, and as such stood apart from the more thoroughly apostate and degenerate world.

But even Israel's fields were full of tares; and the Lord mercifully suspended the fulness of the gospel requirements, which, because of violation, would have been a means of condemnation; and the law of carnal commandments, generalized as the Mosaic Code, was given instead—as a schoolmaster, whose rigid insistence and compelling restraint, whose rod of correction would, in the course of centuries, prepare the covenant though recreant people for the re-establishment of the gospel—as was effected through the personal ministry of the Redeemer. See Gal. 3: 23-26.

Following the Messianic ministry and the apostolic dispensation, another cloud of apostasy enveloped the world, and for well-nigh sixteen centuries held the race befogged in its clammy mists. In this murky and fetid atmosphere the weeds of superstition, unbelief, and human dogma flourished as a dank tropical jungle.

while belief in revealed truth survived only as a wilted growth amidst the prevalent insalubrity.

The last apostasy was general, alike on both hemispheres. For nearly two centuries after its establishment on the Western Continent, the Church of Jesus Christ flourished to the blessing of its members. Then followed disruption and apostasy, the bitter fruitage of sin; and so was fulfilled the saddening prophecy of Alma concerning the Nephites:

"Yea, and then shall they see wars and pestilences, yea, famines and bloodshed, even until the people of Nephi shall become extinct. Yea, and this because they shall dwindle in unbelief, and fall into the works of darkness, and lasciviousness, and all manner of iniquities. Yea, I say unto you, that because they shall sin against so great light and knowledge, yea, I say unto you, that from that day, even the fourth generation shall not pass away, before this great iniquity shall come" (Book of Mormon, Alma 45).

Following each of these epoch-making declensions, from the Adamic to the current dispensation, there has come a period of revival, rejuvenescence, or as now witnessed, a definite restoration and re-establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ, by which the tares, though not yet rooted up to be burned, have been at last prevented from choking out the wheat.

The application of our Lord's parable of the wheat and the tares to the great falling away, or the last general apostasy, is thus shown in latter-day Scripture:

"And after they [the Apostles of old] have fallen asleep, the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan, sitteth to reign, behold he soweth the tares; wherefore the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness" (Doctrine and Covenants 86: 3; compare Rev. 12: 6, 14).

But the day of the Church's exile is ended. In unostentatious triumph she has returned after enforced absence, and is established anew for the blessing of all who make themselves fit to be partakers of her bounty.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Social.—The Leeds branch Mutual Improvement Association gave a social and concert, February 15th, 1919, for the purpose of raising funds for the purchasing of a supply of Books of Mormon. Brother Harry Greenall, president of the Mutual, reports that new talent was found among saints and investigators.

Priesthood Meeting.—A meeting of the priesthood, officers, teachers, and lady missionaries of the Grimsby branch, Hull con-

ference, was held in Thrift Hall, Pasture Street, Grimsby, on Sunday, February 16th, 1919, at 10:30 a.m. President Arnold G. Holland and Elder Frank Alexander were in attendance. President Holland presided. Each organization was reported by its president. Work pertaining to each organization was discussed, and many suggestions were made.

District Meeting.—On February 18th, 1919, the Croydon and South London district meeting was held at York House, Brixton, London. Three sessions were held. The first was devoted to the Sunday-school program and work. Each school rendered its part very creditably. The hall was filled for the evening session. Sisters Edith Swan and Florence Leaney, lady missionaries, and Brother Wm. J. Carry and Sister Jessie Brinkhurst were the speakers. The Croydon Sunday-school management was then re-organized with Wm. J. Carry as superintendent, Jessie Brinkhurst as first assistant, and Reginald Dale as secretary and treasurer. The South London Primary officers were released, as the president, Sister Edith Bartley, and family were shortly leaving. The Priesthood and lady missionaries met in the afternoon. The local brethren expressed themselves as willing to do missionary work, and the lady missionaries expressed themselves to the same effect. Sister Sarah E. Stagg was appointed to labor in Brighton, for the month of March.

Branch Conferences.—The Leeds branch conference was held Sunday, February 2nd, 1919, in four sessions. Those visiting the conference were Conference President Joseph S. Nelson and Sisters Edith Phillips and Edith Turner, lady missionaries. The conference president took charge of the priesthood meeting at 1:30. Assistant-superintendent Harry Greenall took charge of the Sunday-school at 2:30. The children gave a well-prepared program of songs, choruses, and scriptural recitations, and Sister Phillips gave an interesting address on Bible stories. The conference president took charge of a lady-missionaries' meeting at 4:15, when Sisters Betsy Swaine, Ivy M. Senior, and B. May Clapham were set apart as lady missionaries. At 6 o'clock Branch President Fred Farrar took charge of the evening session. Sister Edith Turner gave a spirited address. Mr. Atkinson and his two daughters favored the large assembly with two beautiful musical selections. President Nelson concluded the meeting with an address.

The Batley branch of the Leeds conference held its semi-annual conference on Sunday, February 9th, 1919, in four sessions. Conference President Joseph S. Nelson presided at the priesthood and lady-missionary meeting, held at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., respectively. Superintendent Fred Ainsworth took charge of the Sunday-school session in the afternoon. The children gave well-prepared recitations, songs, and choral numbers. Reports

were heard from the teachers and officers of the branch, and President Nelson discoursed on the principles of the gospel. In the evening session, Branch President Walter Walker was in charge, and the meeting was further assisted by Elder John W. Turner, after whose instructive remarks the conference president made the concluding address.

The Pudsey branch held its conference in two sessions, on Sunday, February 16th, 1919. Conference President Joseph S. Nelson attended both sessions, and Elder E. Henry Clarke was present in the evening. Branch President Nicholson Elliott conducted both sessions. The Sunday-school session was made interesting by the delightful manner in which the children rendered the program. The conference president spoke on the subject of baptism. In the evening, after the ordination of a deacon and the setting apart of other officers, Elder Clarke gave a forceful talk on obedience, and President Nelson followed with an explanation of how that subject applied in heaven. Well-rendered solos, by two of the sisters, contributed largely to the good spirit and the impressiveness of the meeting.

At the Gateshead branch, Newcastle conference, a branch conference was held on Sunday, February 16th, 1919. Three meetings were held, at which President Leslie T. Harper and Elder James E. Rennie were in attendance. Brother Anthony J. Marquiss conducted the first session, which was given over to the Sunday-school. The children rendered their parts well. President Leslie T. Harper and Elder James E. Rennie gave them valuable instructions. A priesthood and lady-missionary meeting was held between the Sunday-school and evening meeting, where the local brethren and lady missionaries testified to the joy received from duties well done, and voiced their desire to continue in the work of the Lord. At the evening meeting the speakers were Elder James E. Rennie and President Leslie T. Harper. Solos were rendered by Sister Louie Batt. There was a good attendance at all the meetings.

DIED.

LAIRD.—On January 18th, 1919, of influenza-pneumonia, Annie Carson Laird. She was the daughter of Robert Laird and Elizabeth Lindsay Carson Laird, born at Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland, August 24th, 1913, and blessed October 18th, 1913, by Elder A. M. Hunter.

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